



Springfield-Greene County  
Health Department  
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***From the Office of the Director of Health***

### **Federal Leader Urges Faith-Based Community to Prepare for Pandemic Influenza**

Members of the faith-based community in Greene County will have the opportunity to learn about planning for emergencies at a special workshop on November 27<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Julie Gerberding, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will make a special appearance to stress the importance of emergency preparedness.

“We hope the event will raise awareness on how faith-based communities can protect and care for members of their congregations during emergencies such as pandemic influenza, tornadoes and bioterrorism,” says pandemic health planner Molly Holtmann.

In the 2000 census, more than 135,000 Greene County residents—56% of the total population—reported a religious affiliation with a faith-based organization.

“Churches will be invaluable in a disaster response,” adds Holtmann. “Response agencies will likely have limited resources, so it will be vitally important for churches to ensure their families and communities are cared for.”

The event will include presentations from Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management Director Ryan Nicholls and Assistant Director Larry Woods on planning responses for all types of community-wide emergencies. It will also feature addresses from the health department’s health planner, pandemic health planner and community and environmental health planner.

The event is free to members of the faith-based community, but seating is limited. Anyone interested in attending should call (417) 864-1083 by November 24<sup>th</sup> to reserve a seat.

For more information on pandemic influenza planning or personal preparedness, visit the Springfield-Greene County Health Department Web site at <http://health.springfieldmogov.org>.

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